

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

<b>Project Title:</b>	Northern Rail Extension	<b>Project Link:</b>
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**Project Description:** This project involves the construction of a new 80-mile rail line from North Pole to Delta Junction. The federal Surface Transportation Board completed an environmental impact statement (EIS) in 2009 and issued a Record of Decision in January 2010. EPA expressed concerns re: the purpose and need. Phase I of the project includes the construction of a new bridge across the Tanana River. In December 2010 the EPA declared the Tanana River an Aquatic Resource of National Significance (ARNI) and concluded that the project does not comply with the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) guidelines and would have "substantial and unacceptable adverse effects on the Tanana River." Under a memorandum of agreement with the Army Corp of Engineers, EPA exercised their right to review the permit, but agreed in early June 2011 to allow the permit to go forward.

**Lead Federal Agency:** Surface Transportation Board  
**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Jeff Bruno, (2) EPA Lead: Matt LaCroix/Gayle Martin (404), (3) Corps Lead: Ellen Lyons

Schedule		Federal		State	
Last Updated By:	Individuals Name	Last Updated By:	Individuals Name	Last Updated By:	Individuals Name
Date:	Date Updated	Date:	Date Updated	Date:	Date Updated
Bridge construction was completed August 5, 2014.  ARRC plans to begin Phase II in the next fiscal year. Limited resource agency involvement at this point.				ARRC has not received all the funding to start segment 2 and has asked OPMP to suspend funding until they receive more funding and start on segment 2.	

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

<b>Project Title:</b>	Port Mackenzie Rail Extension	<b>Project Link:</b>
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**Project Description:** This project proposes the construction of a 30 – 45 mile rail extension line from the Matanuska-Susitna Valley to Port MacKenzie in order to transport freight from Interior Alaska.  
The Mat-Su Borough and the State are working towards transferring the DNR land to the Borough and the easements are the next step within that process.  
Land transfers have both completed their administrative process to handle transferring the State land to the Borough through RADS.  
The transfer will not happen until the as built for the project is complete.

**Lead Federal Agency:** **Surface Transportation Board**

**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Jeff Bruno, (2) EPA Lead: Matt LaCroix (404), (3) Corps Lead: Ben Soiseth

Schedule		Federal		State	
Last Updated By:	Individuals Name	Last Updated By:	Individuals Name	Last Updated By:	Individuals Name
Date:	Date Updated	Date:	Date Updated	Date:	Date Updated
The 404 permit was issued September, 2012. Project construction has been ongoing since early 2013. 14.4 miles of embankment have been constructed. An additional 11.6 miles of embankment are scheduled for completion in 2015. Rails have been installed on 1.8 miles of embankment. No funding currently exists for constructing the final 7.1 miles of embankment, or for installation of the remaining rail.		The federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) released the Final EIS on March 25, 2011. The STB released issued the Record of Decision (ROD) on November 21, 2011.  On January 26th, 2012, the FAA denied the Railroad access across the Big Lake VORTAC site. This is a State lease in which FAA has the right to deny incompatible uses. The project will likely need to find an alternative route around this tract of land. No alternative was evaluated for this scenario in the NEPA process.		Current efforts are being focused on modifying and updating ADF&G and DNR TWUP permits, satisfying the Mitigation Measures within the ROD, and fulfilling requirements of Programmatic Agreement with SHPO.  Currently MLW (Survey unit) along with DOT is processing the section line vacation application	

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

<b>Project Title:</b>	Izembek Land Exchange EIS	<b>Project Link:</b>
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**Project Description:** Congress has approved the land exchange, but an EIS for the land exchange needs to be done for a single lane gravel road connecting the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay. USFWS (URS as contractor) has completed the FEIS but has yet to issue the Record of Decision (ROD). Secretary of the Interior will need to do a public interest determination if the land exchange is in the public interest. Cooperating Agencies: Corps, FHWA/WFL, SOA, King Cove Corp, Aleutians East Borough, City of King Cove, Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, and the Native Village of Belkofski.

**Lead Federal Agency:** USFWS

**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Samantha Carroll, (2) DEC Lead: Gary Mendivil, (3) FWS Lead: Stephanie Brady, (4) EPA Leads: Jennifer Curtis (NEPA), (5) Matt LaCroix (404), (6) Corps Lead: Shane McCoy

Schedule		Federal		State	
Last Updated By:	Individuals Name	Last Updated By:	Individuals Name	Last Updated By:	Individuals Name
Date:	Date Updated	Date:	Date Updated	Date:	Date Updated
		<p>On December 23, 2013, Secretary of Interior Sally Jewel issued ROD/PID selecting “No Action” alternative. On January 15, 2014, Senator Begich introduced a new Izembek road bill and the King Cove group requested reconsideration of the ROD. In a letter dated January 17, 2014, Senator Murkowski, in concert with the King Cove group, also requested the Secretary reconsider her decision to reject the land exchange. No decision from Secretary Jewell on the matter. On March 25, 2014, the King Cove Group met with Sec. Jewell in DC. At that meeting it was agreed that the KCG would provide the Secretary with information addressing issues and comments raised at the meeting. In turn the Secretary would respond to the KCG’s January 15, 2014 letter requesting reconsideration of her Record of Decision on the EIS. The KCG provided the information on April 15, 2014. As far as I know Secretary Jewell has not fulfilled her commitment to respond to the KCG.</p>		<p>On August 13, 2014, Secretary Jewell sent letters to the Governor, King Cove Group and Sen Murkowski reaffirming her denial of the land exchange. On August 15, 2014, the DOI filed a motion to dismiss Plaintiff’s (SOA and King Cove Groups) claims under rules of Civil Procedures (12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6)). On April 7, 2014 the State of Alaska, Department of Law filed notice of intent to sue the Department of Interior regarding the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge R.S. 2477 rights-of-way near Cold Bay, AK. King Cove Group &amp; the SOA as an intervener-Plaintiff filed a complaint in federal court on 6/3/14 asking for the ROD to be invalidated and prevented from taking effect.</p>	

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

<b>Project Title:</b>	Knik Arm Crossing	<b>Project Link:</b>	
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**Project Description:** The proposed project would build a 2.7 mile vehicular toll bridge across Knik Arm b/w the Port of Anchorage area and the Port Mackenzie area, including 19 miles of road to support the bridge's accessibility. This project is being developed to meet the current and projected transportation needs of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough and was identified as a high priority infrastructure project by the Governor in September 2003.

The U.S. DOT, FHWA, and Alaska DOT are the lead agencies for this project. Final design and construction could be completed as early as 2018. Planners are currently working on obtaining properties and working with contractors scheduling surveys for the as-built completion.

**Lead Federal Agency:** FHWA

**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Sara Longan, (2) EPA Lead: Matt LaCroix (404), (3) Corps Lead: Shane McCoy

Schedule		Federal		State	
Last Updated By:	Individuals Name	Last Updated By:	Individuals Name	Last Updated By:	Mark Morones
Date:	Date Updated	Date:	Date Updated	Date:	Nov. 16, 2015
		<p>NMFS issued a Section 10 No Jeopardy finding re: Cook Inlet Beluga Whales in November 2010.</p> <p>FEIS was signed in December 2007 and ROD was signed in December 2010.</p> <p>Muni and USCG permits contingent on 404 permit.</p> <p>404 public comment period closed December 2011.</p> <p>Army Corps 404 permit decision delayed due to NMFS consultation issues (was due Sept 2013). File has been closed pending MMPA authorization.</p> <p>LOA rulemaking pending since 2010. As of July 2014, Draft Federal Register notice is being vetted internally.</p>		<p>Sara Taylor is no longer with OPMP. She is director of CACFA. Sara Longan is SOA lead.</p> <p>Section 401 Water Quality Cert issued by ADEC in September 2012.</p> <p>Submerged tideland easement from Southcentral Region issued in February 2013.</p> <p>In 2014, The plan of finance was further refined, with project construction costs now being covered by a combination of a federal TIFIA loan, federal transportation grants, and state bonds.</p> <p>During FY 15, the Knik Arm Bridge &amp; Toll Authority will be assisting Alaska DOT in assuming management of the project, pursuant to SB 13 and HB 23.</p>	

## TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

<b>Project Title:</b>	Ambler Mining District Access	<b>Project Link:</b>
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**Project Description:** The State of Alaska is considering the potential costs, benefits, and investment opportunities associated with construction and operation of an all-season, controlled-access industrial road connecting the Ambler Mining District to the Dalton Highway. The proposed road would cross through the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve, a conservation system unit established under the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (ANILCA).  
ANILCA Section 201, establishing Gates of the Arctic, anticipated the need for this road and included a specific provision for the Secretaries of Interior and Transportation to grant a right-of-way for this road.  
The project proponent is the Alaska Industrial development and Export Authority (AIDEA).

**Lead Federal Agency:** Corps

**Responsible Person:** (1) State Lead: Marie Steele, (2) AIDEA Lead: Mark Davis, (3) DOT Lead: Ryan Andersen, (4) Corps Lead: Jason Berkner (5) EPA Lead: Jennifer Curtis (NEPA), (6) Gayle Martin (404)

Schedule		Federal		State	
Last Updated By:	Jennifer Curtis	Last Updated By:	Individuals Name	Last Updated By:	Marie Steele
Date:	11/2/2015	Date:	Date Updated	Date:	11/9/2015
On October 15, 2015, AIDEA received a memorandum from the State of Alaska Office of Management and Budget clarifying that AIDEA can use up to \$3.6 million of previously appropriated funds to submit ANILCA permit applications, initiate the EIS process, and complete the scoping process for the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road project. AIDEA is in the process of finalizing the permit applications for submittal. More information on the project and application will be provided in the near future.		AIDEA has the consolidated permit application ready to submit.		Project update pending consultation between the AIDEA and the COE.	

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

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Lead Federal Agency: [Enter Here]  
Responsible Person: [Enter Here]

Schedule		Federal		State	
Last Updated By:	Individuals Name	Last Updated By:	Individuals Name	Last Updated By:	Individuals Name
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